

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

10. **(New)** In an inlet valve assembly of a high-pressure fuel pump comprising a valve element disposed in a valve chamber and a fluid conduit adjoining the valve chamber on the upstream side, the improvement wherein the fluid conduit is embodied such that a rotation (swirl) about the longitudinal axis of the fluid conduit is impressed on the fluid stream that flows toward the valve chamber.

11. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the fluid conduit comprises a first conduit portion and a second conduit portion adjoining the first conduit portion, the longitudinal axes of the first and second conduit portions being at an angle $< 180^\circ$ to one another, and the longitudinal axis of the first conduit portion being laterally offset from the longitudinal axis of the second conduit portion.

12. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein the longitudinal axes of the first and second conduit portions are at least approximately at a right angle to one another.

13. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 10, further comprising a ball or a cone element as the valve element.

14. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 11, further comprising a ball or a cone element as the valve element.

15. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 12, further comprising a ball or a cone element as the valve element.

16. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein the first and second conduit portions, in cross section, have at least approximately the same radius; and wherein the lateral offset of the longitudinal axes is greater than the radius.

17. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the first and second conduit portions, in cross section, have at least approximately the same radius; and wherein the lateral offset of the longitudinal axes is greater than the radius.

18. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein the first and second conduit portions, in cross section, have at least approximately the same radius; and wherein the lateral offset of the longitudinal axes is greater than the radius.

19. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 11, further comprising a transition region between the first conduit portion and the second conduit portion, the transition region being machined by means of electrochemical removal of material.

20. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 12, further comprising a transition region between the first conduit portion and the second conduit portion, the transition region being machined by means of electrochemical removal of material.

21. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 13, further comprising a transition region between the first conduit portion and the second conduit portion, the transition region being machined by means of electrochemical removal of material.

22. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 16, further comprising a transition region between the first conduit portion and the second conduit portion, the transition region being machined by means of electrochemical removal of material.

23. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 19, wherein the transition region comprises a wall that is curved from the first conduit portion to the second conduit portion.

24. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 20, wherein the transition region comprises a wall that is curved from the first conduit portion to the second conduit portion.

25. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 21, wherein the transition region comprises a wall that is curved from the first conduit portion to the second conduit portion.

26. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 22, wherein the transition region comprises a wall that is curved from the first conduit portion to the second conduit portion.

27. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein the first conduit portion extends no more than an axially insignificantly distance past the second conduit portion.

28. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the longitudinal axis of the first conduit portion and the longitudinal axis of the second conduit portion form an angle $> 90^\circ$.

29. **(New)** The valve assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein the longitudinal axis of the first conduit portion and the longitudinal axis of the second conduit portion form an angle $> 90^\circ$.